

THE sin of Burton was, not that he had offended the law, but had offended King Roosevelt.

AN extra session of the Legislature? What interests demand it? It will handicap the party sorely next year, let the legislative results be what they may. The Governor's "pet measures" are likely to come high.

THE cry of the average Missouri Republican for years, "We want to see the books!" Well, they have seen them, but, in the language of the street, "there's nothing doing." Is this because the g. o. p. patriots are so busy with their own "books" in the St. Louis, Chicago and New York Sub-Treasuries? The situation seems to bear out the old contention that the biggest rogue shouts "stop thief!" loudest.

OVER \$200,000,000 has been spent on the Panama Canal to date, and the beginning is only just about begun. But, Lord! what a glorious field it is for "high financiers"! Its vista of graft reaches into the dim and distant future. Though maybe not conceived in sin the project was brought forth in iniquity. The dismemberment and spoliation of a sister Republic was the first step taken and we may rest assured that the end will but do credit to the beginning, while the years between will bear plentiful fruit of fraud and speculation.

THE executive committee of the Board of Curators of the Missouri State University held its monthly meeting at the Southern Hotel yesterday and called a meeting of the full Board of Curators to be held at Columbia April 11th. The committee spent yesterday going over names and approving bills. A short session was held last night and the committee will conclude its work to-day. Walter Williams stated yesterday afternoon that it was the purpose of the body to create several new positions at the University before adjourning.—Globe-Democrat.

To be sure a lot of new positions will be created at the State University. The late Legislature gave that institution \$700,000 of the people's money, and it must be spent.

TALKING about lobbying, the anti-lobby bill that ought to be made law is one making it grounds for impeachment for the President or any Governor to solicit or induce, by means of patronage or the power to disoblige, any Representative or Senator to vote for or oppose any measure before Congress or the Legislature. This would be in accordance with the intent and purpose of the men who made this a free and independent government. They aimed to keep separate and apart the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments; but at this day, the Executive seeks to control the Legislature, if not indeed also the Judicial. It is time a halt was called, and the men honored with public position made to restrict themselves solely to the administration of their trusts.

Two weeks ago I asked my brother of the *Dunklin Democrat* this question: "Are you in favor of that undemocratic quo warranto bill fostered by the Governor and championed by your Senator?" To this query he replies as follows:

When it happens that the sworn law officers refuse to do their duty, must the outraged people wait until the next election to get even with them? The Governor may now suspend any State officer at the capital, on the smallest provocation. Why not give him the same authority in the case of a stubborn sheriff or a corrupt prosecuting attorney? We are democratic, but we believe that conditions do arise when extraordinary remedies alone will cure disease, and the time is on Missouri, now, when it must either surrender to the lawless element or make that element surrender.

Ah, my brother, the necessity of "extraordinary measures" has always been made, the plea for encroachment upon the rights of the people. The *lettres de cachet* of France, the domiciliary visits of Russia, the rack, the thumbscrew and the stake were all "extraordinary remedies," and for ages was there never a time when the "necessity" for their employment was lacking. But here in free America we claim to move on a higher plane, and insist that all power is vested in the people, the only sovereigns we recognize; that our officers are our public servants, and that we are the sole judges of their administrations—the only source from which comes the power to punish for neglect of duty

or malfeasance. This we do through the courts upon our presentment, and we do not delegate that duty to some official far removed from us, who may, from political or personal cause, hale his victim hundreds of miles away to stand trial for alleged offense. The "three men" vicious and mean enough to petition the Governor without due cause may be found in almost any community. I do not believe in placing any such power in the hands of any three men, though they be robed in garments of light, with pin-feathers a-sprouting. You say, "The Governor may now suspend any State officer at the capital upon the smallest provocation." Where do you get that law? You must show me! Look it up, brother, and give it to me in the text. If you can't find it—if there is no such law—I expect you to correct your statement, for you cannot afford to mislead your readers, even by innocent mistake. In the meantime, rest assured of one thing: an "outraged people" are not outraged by their home officials once to where they are an hundred times by those high in authority and far removed. I regret to hear that the "lawless element" is now on top in Missouri. It is the first time in my fifty years' residence in the State—excepting in the period of the Civil War—that such condition has been thought to prevail. If such is the result of two years of Folk, it would seem that a return to the old Democratic regime were an end to be desired.

BRO. AKE, of the Iron County REGISTER, gave J. R. Burton, Federal convict, a nice write-up in his paper last week. Burton served out his time and was released from the Ironton jail last Friday. Burton, while serving as United States Senator from Kansas, was indicted and twice convicted for acting as the paid attorney of an alleged fraudulent concern in St. Louis. We admire Bro. Ake's sympathy for the fellows who are down. The man who takes the part of the under dog generally has a good heart. But the graceful compliment which the old Democratic war horse of the REGISTER paid this convicted Republican United States Senator on his departure from the Ironton jail would have looked better in a setting of better loyalty to the Democratic administration of this State than the REGISTER is showing. The REGISTER, we are sorry to say, can see nothing good in Gov. Folk's administration to commend.—Jackson Cash-Book.

THE REGISTER's expressions in regard to Senator Burton were the result of my conviction that he was innocent of crime or violation of law. Four United States Supreme Judges bear me out in my conclusion. Senator Burton claims that he was the victim of the President's personal displeasure; that if he had not committed the unpardonable sin of opposing the will of the "Political Community of Interests" no thought of his prosecution would have entered the mind of any person. We know Teddy brooks no opposition or interference, whether it comes from the fundamental law of the land or any State or citizen thereof. See the California episode. Burton says he offended him in exercising his sworn duty as Senator. Burton was indicted, convicted, and the trial set at naught by the Supreme Court. He was re-indicted, that indictment set aside, and a third presentment made. For what? For alleged violation of a forgotten statute, which statute, as noted above, four of the nine judges of the court of final resort declare did not apply to his case. If it did apply, a dozen Senators have violated it time and again. Why were none of these prosecuted? A special attorney was sent out from Washington to assist in Burton's prosecution, just like another special attorney is now in St. Louis to aid the Government in the trial of E. G. Lewis, charged with violating some postal law or "ruling." No special attorney was on hand to prosecute in the trial resultant upon the \$61,500 looting of the St. Louis Sub-Treasury; but maybe that was because of "over-confidence"—eh? Be that as it may, these things bother me, and the horrible thought sometimes comes to me that I am so constituted as to be incapable of discerning right from wrong—of discriminating between justice and injustice. So, to be absolutely free from sinning against possible innocence, I try always to give the accused the benefit of the doubt. Seriously, my brother, I see in the malevolent, despotic use of authority a great menace to all of us; and it is because our Governor is always reaching out to add to his office and authority the powers now safely vested in the people, that I oppose him and will continue to oppose him as long as I believe in the teachings of old Tom Jefferson. In this am I not Democratic, Bro. McGuire?

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